

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 012666

70

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: AF/N:DLMACK

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:PPSARROS

----- 027287

R 192011Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 012666

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT TUNIS 0061 ACTION SECSTATE JAN. 7,

QUOTE

S E C R E T TUNIS 0061

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS MO

SUBJECT: MASMOUDI VOICES HIS CONCERN ABOUT PRESIDENT  
BOURGUIBA'S VIEW THAT MASMOUDI PERSONA NON  
GRATA IN WASHINGTON

REF: TUNIS 41 AND TUNIS 53

1. SUMMARY: DURING ONE AND ONE HALF HOUR MEETING WITH  
FONMIN MASMOUDI JAN 4 AT HIS HOME HE BROUGHT UP FACT  
THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAS BEEN TELLING HIM AND OTHERS  
THAT MASMOUDI IS PERSONA NON GRATA IN WASHINGTON; THUS  
HE CANNOT GO WITH HIM ON VISIT TO U.S. I REITERATED  
WHAT I HAD TOLD MASMOUDI'S CHIEF OF CABINET EARLIER  
SAME DAY (REPORTED REFTEL) TO EFFECT THAT THIS IS NON-  
SENSE. MASMOUDI SEEMED TO ACCEPT THIS. HE SAID  
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 012666

NORMALLY HE WOULD HAVE PAID NO HEED TO REPORT BUT IN  
PRESIDENT'S CURRENT STATE OF MIND (TUNIS 53) HE AFRAID  
PRESIDENT LAKES IT SEJIOUESLY--SAFD IS OFFARING IT AS  
REASON MASMOUDI CANNOT GO WITH HIM TO U.S. I OFFERED

TO TAKE THIS UP WITH BOURGUIBA AT MY NEXT MEETING BUT MASMOUDI SAID HE DOUBTED THIS WOULD MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IN BOURGUIBA'S ATTITUDE. IF MASMOUDI STORY IS ACCURATE AND IT APPEARS TO BE, BOURGUIBA APPARENTLY MAY WELL HAVE FINALLY DECIDED TO REMOVE MASMOUDI BEFORE HIS U.S. TRIP. HE MAY EITHER BELIEVE MASMOUDI AS FON MIN IS LIABILITY ON THIS TRIP OR THAT THIS OFFERS HIM EXCUSE HE HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR TO REPLACE MASMOUDI. WE BELIEVE IN EITHER CASE THAT MASMOUDI'S REMOVAL AT THIS JUNCTURE MAY NOT BE A WISE MOVE, AS I SUGGESTED IN REF-TEL. END SUMMARY.

2. MASMOUDI IN COMMENTING ON DECLINE IN STATE OF HEALTH OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AND CONSEQUENCES THIS MIGHT HAVE FOR TUNISIA'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES (REPORTED TUNIS 53) BROUGHT UP REPORT WHICH HE SAID PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAS RECEIVED FROM AMBASSADOR EL GOULLI AND HABIB BOURGUIBA JR. THAT MASMOUDI IS PERSONA NON GRATA AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND COULD NOT ACCOMPANY BOURGUIBA TO U.S.

3. I RESTATED POINTS I HAD MADE TO HIS CHIEF OF CABINET EARLIER IN DAY AS REPORTED REFTEL. MASMOUDI ACCEPTED THESE AND SAID HE IN NO WAY EXPECTED THAT REPORT WAS TRUE SINCE U.S. DOES NOT CONDUCT ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS IN THIS MANNER. MASMOUDI SAID BOURGUIBA NEVERTHELESS HAS BEEN TELLING PEOPLE, INCLUDING HIM, THAT HE CAN'T TAKE MASMOUDI TO U.S. FOR THIS REASON. HE, MASMOUDI, WILL NORMALLY PAY NO HEED TO SUCH A REPORT BUT IN PRESIDENT'S CURENT STATE OF MIND HE AFRAID PRESIDENT TAKES IT SERIOUSLY.

4. I EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA ACTUALLY WAS LENDING CREDENCE TO SUCH A NONSENSICAL REPORT AND OFFERED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIM THE NEXT TIME WE MEET. MASMOUDI INDICATED HE DOUBTED THIS WOULD SERVE ANY PURPOSE SINCE BOURGUIBA HAS MADE UP  
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 012666

HIS MIND ON THIS MATTER.

5. MASMOUDI SAID HE IS AWARE BOURGUIBA WOULD LIKE BOURGUIBA JR. TO BECOME MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HE DOES NOT HAVE AN UNLIMITED TENURE ON THIS JOB. NEVERTHELESS, HE RESENTED THE ANTI-AMERICAN LABEL THAT WAS BEING PUT ON HIM WHICH HE FEELS IS UNDESERVED. HE KNOWS OF ONLY ONE ACTION WHICH HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHICH WAS DISPLEASING TO THE U.S. AND THAT WAS THE VOTE ON CHINA'S ADMISSION TO THE UN WHICH OCCURRED IN VERY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. IN RETROSPECT HE FEELS TUNISIA WAS CARRYING OUT A POLICY THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS ADVOCATING AT THE TIME AND STILL IS VIS-

A-VIS CHINA.

6. MASMOUDI DID NOT INDICATE IF HE THINKS BOURGUIBA REALLY BELIEVES THIS REPORT OR IF HE IS USING IT AS AN EXCUSE TO BRING BOURGUIBA JR. BACK INTO HIS OLD JOB. HE SAID AT THE TIME OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ABEELAZIZ HAMZAOU I THERE WAS SPECULATION AND RUMORS THAT HAMZAOU I HAD BEEN SELECTED BECAUSE HE WAS AMERICAN TRAINED, HAD AN AMERICAN WIFE AND WAS A FRIEND OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HIS ADVISORS. I SAID WE UNDERSTOOD HAMZAOU I HAD NEVER MET KISSINGER UNTIL HIS VISIT HERE AND THERE WAS NO REASON TO THINK HAMZAOU I WAS MORE ACCEPTABLE TO US THAN HE, MASMOUDI, WOULD BE. MASMOUDI SAID HE RECOGNIZED HAMZAOU I IS A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR AND IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE TO RUN THE MINISTRY WHILE HE IS TRAVELING.

7. COMMENT: MASMOUDI OBVIOUSLY FEELS HIS DAYS AS FON MIN ARE NUMBERED AND THAT HIS BEING LABELED AS PERSONA NON GRATA IN WASHINGTON IS A KEY FACTOR IN PREPARING FOR HIS POSSIBLE REMOVAL. HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE BELIEVES THE REPORT HIMSELF. HE MAY THINK IT IS ONLY A CONVENIENT WAY FOR BOURGUIBA TO JUSTIFY HIS REPLACEMENT BY BOURGUIBA JR. WHO IS WIDELY KNOWN TO BE VERY PRO-AMERICAN. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER BOURGUIBA BELIEVES THIS REPORT OR WHETHER HE IS USING IT AS A RATIONALIZATION FOR AN ACTION HE WAS ELECTED TO TAKE, MASMOUDI'S REMOVAL AT THIS JUNCTURE MAY NOT BE A WISE MOVE AS I SUGGESTED IN TUNIS 41.

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 012666

SEELYE

UNQUOTE RUSH

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 27 JUL 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, VISITS, CABINET MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE012666  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AF/N:DLMACK  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** P750004-0950  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740175/abbrzbve.tel  
**Line Count:** 146  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** TUNIS 41 AND TUNIS 53  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MASMOUDI VOICES HIS CONCERN ABOUT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S VIEW THAT MASMOUDI PERSONA NON GRATA IN WASHINGTON  
**TAGS:** PEPR, US, TS, MO, (MASMOUDI)  
**To:** PARIS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005